



# AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Housing: Question on Year Structure Built (H-2)

### FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT

- The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families uses these data to profile the ages of the structures lived in by families eligible for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses these data to calculate and set fair market rents to help low-income households obtain better rental housing and reduce the share of their income going to rent costs.
- HUD also uses these data to determine areas that are eligible for Federal Housing Administration insurance programs.
- Building developers and contractors use these data for selecting sites for new housing developments.
- Local governments use these data for forecasting needs for services such as police and fire protection.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

### EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT DATA

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Low Income Housing, Title 42, Chapter 8
- FHA Multifamily Insurance, Title 12, Chapter 13

### QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

**2** About when was this building first built?

☐ 2000 or later

☐ 1995 to 1999

☐ 1990 to 1994

☐ 1980 to 1989

☐ 1970 to 1979

☐ 1960 to 1969

☐ 1950 to 1959

☐ 1940 to 1949

☐ 1939 or earlier

[<www.census.gov/acs/www>](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)



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### HISTORY OF YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT QUESTION

- The question on year structure built has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

### WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The question is asked to determine the number of housing units built during the specified periods and that are still in existence at the time of the census. The year structure was built determines the age of housing units and also is often used as a measure of housing quality. Information on the number of units built in 1939 or earlier is required as an element in various grant programs mandated in legislation.

### WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

### HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

**<[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>**

and American FactFinder at:

**<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>**

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

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**<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>**

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